

## *District IV Commissioner Romney Rogers*



**Improving Mobility** – My thanks to those who have commented on the City's application for funding to make improvements to Cordova Road through the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), administered through the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) of which I am a Board Member. I understand your concerns and would like to clarify the process to assure you that public outreach will occur prior to any plans being finalized.

Cordova Road was identified for this grant funding because it is a priority in the City's *Connecting the Blocks Program*, which implements the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision* of being a connected community. Creating multimodal roadways was identified as a priority by our neighbors and is even more critical in the vicinity of SE 17<sup>th</sup> Street, especially due to the large number of visitors who frequent the area. As you know, this roadway experiences significant traffic by vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians with limited, current, multimodal accommodations. Creating safe accommodations for bicyclists and pedestrians makes it safer for all users.

For a municipality to apply for TAP funding, a conceptual plan must first be developed. This concept is not the final design. City staff prepared a conceptual plan, based largely on input received about developments occurring in the area. Last July, a one-day Cordova Road pedestrian study, conducted as part of a nearby development project, revealed that 457 pedestrians crossed Cordova Road where there are no crosswalks.

The TAP Grant process is lengthy, with review and authorization taking seven months from the date of application. The process includes review by several different MPO boards and committees of the initial ranking of projects and approval of the ranking. Project eligibility review is conducted by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). Final approval is expected in August. If the Cordova Road project goes forward, the City would not receive the funding for three years and construction would not start until December of 2018.

We are currently awaiting the eligibility review, and if Cordova Road is determined to be eligible by FDOT, the City will conduct public outreach to develop the desired plan. This process will include property owners, residents, and business owners from the surrounding neighborhoods to determine the best solution to the current challenges on Cordova Road that have been identified by residents. The plan will, however, need to improve the multimodal accommodations along Cordova Road, with the addition of bike lanes and pedestrian accommodations to be consistent with funding requirements.

The City Commission voted to move the Cordova Road project forward, following a thorough discussion, which included the recognition of the SE 17<sup>th</sup> Street corridor as a priority for the City Commission this year and based on the ranking, scope, and budget of the project compared to the other application. As part of the Commission Annual Action Plan project to develop solutions to the SE 17<sup>th</sup> Street transportation network, a mobility study is now underway and will continue over the next year and a half to study the corridor and develop action strategies in a holistic way. The final design plans will incorporate implementation strategies identified for Cordova Road, based on the data collected and public outreach conducted.

In summary, during the design phase, the planning team will consider concerns already raised, together with public input received during our outreach. The final design will be based on significant study and public input to balance the needs of all users of this transportation corridor.

**Improving Sustainability** – Another top neighbor priority is to be a resilient and safe coastal community. Working together, we have made significant progress towards this goal, including the recent launch of the Green Your Routine website at <http://gyr.fortlauderdale.gov/gyr-home-page>. Today, I am pleased to share the [2015 Sustainability Action Plan Progress Report](#), which reflects another milestone in our sustainability efforts. This plan was adopted in 2010 and outlines 101 action items to minimize our environmental impact and protect the long-term prosperity of our community, including reducing fuel and energy consumption each by 20% by 2020. This year's report documents progress made on each of the items, 42% of which are completed, 29% of which are in progress, 5% are initiated, 10% are on standby, and 15% are awaiting implementation. I encourage you to review the plan and share any ideas you may have to improve City operations and continue our progress.

### **For Your Calendar**

- **Telephone Town Hall Meetings** - For the schedule, along with audio recordings of past meetings, please visit <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/departments/city-manager-s-office/public-affairs-office/telephone-town-hall-meetings>.
- **Hurricane Season is June 1 through November 30** - The City website for Hurricane Hazard Information is at <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/departments/fire-rescue/emergency-management/hurricane-preparedness>.

➤ My City Hall Office Hours are Mondays from 2 - 5:30 PM and Tuesdays from 9 AM - Noon (in non-Commission weeks).

To schedule a meeting, please contact MJ Matthews at 954-828-5028 or [mmatthews@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:mmatthews@fortlauderdale.gov).